

S.N. 09/847,198

RD-28698-2

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an end cap that is attached to a glass envelope with a sealing composition that ~~comprises~~ consists of a silver compound, a gold compound or combination thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an end cap that is attached to a glass envelope with a sealing composition that comprises a silver compound, a gold compound or combination thereof, wherein said silver compound comprises silver carbonate, silver halide, ~~silver oxide~~, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A fluorescent lamp comprising an amount of silver carbonate in a range from about 0.1 milligram to about 30 milligrams.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A fluorescent lamp comprising an amount of gold compound in a range from about 0.1 milligram to about 30 milligrams, said gold compound comprising gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The low-vapor pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 4 2, wherein said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof is present in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 4 2, wherein elemental mercury in said lamp is substantially incapable of interacting with ferric and cupric compounds present in said lamp to produce soluble mercury in a presence of said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof.

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Claim 8 (original): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent the interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing a sealing composition between an end cap and a glass envelope of said lamp, said sealing composition comprising a silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof; wherein said silver compound is selected from the group consisting of silver carbonate, silver halide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, and combinations thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The A method of claim 9 for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing a sealing composition between an end cap and a glass envelope of said lamp, said sealing composition consisting of a silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof, wherein said silver compound comprises silver carbonate, silver chloride, silver oxide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing, in a structure of said lamp, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of silver carbonate.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing, in a structure of said lamp, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of a gold compound that comprises gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (canceled)

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Claim 14 (previously present d): The method of claim 9, wherein said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof is present in a range from about 10 milligrams to about 30 milligrams per lamp.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein elemental mercury in said lamp is substantially incapable of interacting with ferric and cupric compounds present in said lamp to produce soluble mercury in a presence of said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof.

Claim 16 (original): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in mercury vapor discharge lamps comprising providing an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent the formation of ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a material selected from the group consisting of silver compounds, gold compounds, and combinations thereof; said material being encapsulated and disposed at a location selected from the group consisting of a base of said lamp and an interior of said lamp; wherein said silver compounds are selected from the group consisting of silver carbonate, silver halide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, and combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a material selected from the group consisting of silver compounds, gold compounds, and combinations thereof; said material being disposed at a base of said mercury vapor discharge lamp; wherein said silver compound is selected from the group consisting of silver carbonate, silver halide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, and combinations thereof.